

FAMILY GUY

RELIGION STORY OUTLINE

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1/1 INT. GRIFFIN KITCHEN

Peter tells the family that his father, Francis is coming for a visit. The family – especially Lois -- is not happy to hear the news that Francis will be staying with them. Lois asks Peter why Francis is coming. Peter tells them that he's not sure, but that Francis mentioned a large event that will be taking place at the Providence Convention Center, and that Francis wants the whole family to attend with him. Chris hopes out loud that the event at the Convention center will be the circus.

1 / 2 INT. GRIFFIN LIVING ROOM

Francis arrives at the Griffin home and everyone is made immediately uncomfortable by his presence. Francis tells Peter that he'll be working the Catholic booth at the Spirituality Convention in Providence, and he expects all of the Griffins to attend. Francis quickly insults Lois for being a Protestant whore. He ridicules Peter for being fat and lazy. Upon seeing the kids, he asks Meg if she is studying to be a good and proper nun. Francis is angered to hear that Meg has never received any sort of religious education. Francis says he understands that because of Lois being Protestant, no proper Catholic school would admit Meg. Then, he declares that Meg should be attending CCD classes, if there is to be any hope at all for her half-Protestant mortal soul. Lois tries to tell Francis that Meg's soul is none of his business, but Peter intervenes and cow-tows to Francis out of fear. Peter then recalls some of his early experiences with the religion that Francis crammed down his throat, and we see some flashbacks depicting the pain and suffering of Catholicism. Rather than further upset his father, Peter tells Meg that she has to go to CCD classes. Meg reluctantly agrees to go to the classes. She says at least it'll be more time out of the house while Francis is around.

1/3 INT. GRIFFIN LIVING ROOM

Chris comes home from school and tells Peter that he needs help with his science project. Peter, who is too stupid to help Chris, refers him to Francis, with the hope that he will create a father/grandson bonding moment. Francis is happy to help, until he looks in the science book and sees a lesson on Evolution. Francis declares the science book blasphemy, and asks Peter what kind of crazy school Peter has sent his children to, that they are not teaching the fact of Creationism. Peter has no answer for Francis, so he blames everything on Lois. Brian can not sit silently any further. He tells Francis that evolution has been proven scientifically, and to deny the fact of it is to be ignorant. Francis is furious at Brian and contends that God created the Earth in seven days. This leads to an angry religious argument between Brian and Francis. They both leave in a

huff. Peter turns a blind eye to the turmoil and says how nice it is to have his father around.

1 / 4 INT. CHURCH YOUTH CENTER

Meg shows up at her first CCD class. At first she is miserable to be there as she mingles with some of the nerdier members of the class. The group welcomes Meg with a happy religious song. (Possibly “Day by Day” from Godspell). Suddenly, Meg’s attitude changes as she spots Garrett, a very handsome, polite and wholesome, sweater-wearing young man who is a member of the group. Meg is instantly smitten as she is introduced to Garret. Even more exciting for Meg, is the impression that Garret seems to like her. He quietly compliments her on choosing to attend CCD. Now excited to be there, Meg happily starts singing along with the group.

1/ 5 INT. BUDDY CIANCI JR. HIGH SCHOOL

The next day, Francis accompanies Chris to school. Rather than have a report done on Evolution, Chris presents his grandfather, who claims to have the actual facts about the Earth and its origins. After getting into an argument with the science teacher, Francis is eventually dragged away by the police, who have been called in a panic, and Chris is temporarily suspended from school.

1/ 6 INT. GRIFFIN LIVING ROOM

At the house, Peter, Lois and Brian watch a TV report about Francis’ commotion at the school. We see Joe being questioned about Francis, who has declined bail. Francis has told Joe that he will rot in a jail cell as part of his protest against the teaching of Evolution. Brian asks Peter if he isn’t embarrassed by his father. Peter says he learned long ago never to question Francis on anything – particularly religion. Then, Brian asks Peter if he truly believes everything that Francis believes. Peter says it’s a stupid question, since he doesn’t have a choice. Lois speaks up and tells Peter that he has plenty of choices. She shows Peter the pamphlet from the Spirituality Convention and points out that the world has many, many religions to choose from, where people can find power and wisdom and comfort. Peter looks at the brochure and is intrigued. He says he always thought religion only existed to make him feel weak, worthless and miserable. Lois points out all the positive things that can be drawn from a positive spiritual background. Peter has never been told that religion could actually serve to make him feel good about himself. Excited by the possibility of having a real religion of his own, Peter declares that he will go on a personal journey to find his own religion. Then, he quietly hopes Joe will keep Francis locked up, since he is certain that if Francis catches wind of this, he will kill Peter with his bare hands.

ACT BREAK

2/ 1 INT. YOUTH CENTER

Meg is happy to see Garret again at the CCD class. Garret commends Meg for committing to the class and then compliments her with a quote from the Bible. Meg isn't sure what the quote means, but she's certain that joining CCD was the best move she's made in quite a while. Garret asks if Meg would like to get together sometime and talk about the Bible. Meg says it would be great and if he wants to, he could come by her house sometime. Garret says he'd love to come by and visit with Meg. He says he's always happy to meet an attractive woman who isn't afraid to know and love Jesus, and that he's sure that Meg must have been raised by good and proper Christian parents. Meg assures Garret that both her parents are very devout Christians.

2/ 2 INT. GOLDMAN'S HOUSE

Peter is dressed as an Orthodox Jew and is receiving instructions on Judaism from Mort. We see a series of quick gags about Peter as a Jew. Mort takes up a book reads a prayer in Hebrew. He encourages Peter to try the prayer. Peter tries to pronounce the Hebrew correctly and ends up hawking a loogie onto Mort.

2/ 3 INT. TRENDY YOGA STUDIO

Peter is dressed in tight clothes and learning about the Kabbalah from Madonna, who is next to him, expounding on spirituality while doing elaborate Yoga poses. Peter tries to do a Yoga pose and either splits his tights, pulls a muscle, blows a fart, or all of the above. Madonna suggests that the Kabbalah is not for Peter. Peter takes exception and tells Madonna she shouldn't judge him just because she's famous. Madonna says her feelings about the Kabbalah would be the same even if she were a less recognizable person, and not Madonna. Peter reacts and looks at her in shock. He says, "You're Madonna? Jesus Christ I thought I was working out with to Granny Clampett".

2/ 4 INT. GRIFFIN LIVING ROOM

Francis asks Meg how her CCD class is going. Meg says she loves it, and Francis is thrilled to think that maybe one of the women in Peter's home may actually make it into heaven. Meg says she feels as though she is in fact on her way to heaven, then asks if anyone can help her by giving her a quote from the Bible. Brian says she's asking the wrong guy. Chris says he can't help her. But of course, Francis is more than willing to give her whatever kind of quote she needs. Meg is happy and excited about her next meeting with Garret and says she had no idea religion could be so exciting.

2/ 5 INT. HINDU TEMPLE

Peter tries to learn about Hinduism from a group of religious figures. He can't concentrate though, because he keeps ducking for cover every time he sees the dots on their foreheads. He tells the Hindus that he keeps thinking the dots are infrared targets like in the Schwarzenegger movies.

2/ 6 INT. BAPTIST CHURCH

Peter attends a Baptist service with Cleveland, but can't get used to the idea that black people keep calling back to the preacher during the service. Finally, he gets himself in trouble by calling out, "Quiet! Jeez, where the hell do you people think you are, the movies"?

2/ 7 INT. NEWPORT MANSION

Peter and Quagmire attend a masked orgy like the one in 'Eyes Wide Shut'. They are both wearing black robes and Quagmire gives Peter a mask to wear, while explaining that this "high service" is a deeply spiritual celebration of life and the Goddesses of fertility. Quagmire gives the password, "Fidelio" and he and Peter are admitted into the mansion. When Peter walks in and sees all the masked women disrobe and stand naked during the ceremony, he yells "Uh-oh"! and craps in his robe.

2/ 8 INT. GRIFFIN LIVING ROOM

Peter is home, despondently watching a Happy Days rerun on TV. Lois asks Peter if he is okay. Peter says he's a little depressed. After all his searching, Peter is now convinced that not only is his father's religion wrong for him, but he will never have a religion that is right for him. He tells Lois that he tried latching on to all these different practices, but none of them felt right. Lois tells Peter that she believes that real religion starts within one's own self. She says that she believes we all have a small voice within us that guides our sense of truth and ethics. She tells Peter that if he can find that part of his consciousness within himself, then he could start to find a spiritual path of his own. All he needs to do is find that warm feeling, that still, small voice that guides him. Throughout Lois' speech, Peter has been staring silently at the TV screen. As he considers what Lois has said, we see Peter have a revelation. Suddenly imbued with a renewed spirit, Peter stands up happily and says, "A-a-a-a-y-y-y"! Lois seems annoyed that she's gone through all this discussion only to have Peter seemingly ignore her. She is surprised however, when Peter tells her that he has realized his true spiritual guide – the Fonz. Overcome with excitement, Peter tells Lois he is going to start his own religion, the First United Church of the Fonz.

2/ 9 INT. PROVIDENCE CONVENTION CENTER

At the Spirituality Convention, Peter has set up a booth with brochures and a video tape deck. He is accepting applications and donations for his new church, and his newly created religion, 'Fonziism'. People are skeptical as they gather around Peter's table. But Peter stands before them and makes his pitch. He tells people about the power of the Fonz, and how Fonzie was never afraid of anything, be it a bully, or the mean police officer that was always harrassing him. He tells of Fonzie's thirst for knowledge and growth. His respect for elders, like Mr. And Mrs. C., and the magical power of his thumb – which of course, was always pointing up to the heavens. Peter becomes evangelical in

his presentation, and surprisingly, most of what he says has an amusing ring of truth to it. When Peter finishes speaking, Brian says that Peter's speech is about the dumbest thing he's ever heard. Francis agrees with Brian for the first time. However, to their surprise, dozens of people are absolutely won over. There is a frenzy at the convention as new followers are clamoring to sign up for Peter's new religion, The United Church of the Fonz.

ACT BREAK

3/1 INT. THE CHURCH OF THE FONZ - DAYS LATER

The family is dressed to attend services at Peter's newly constructed church, which resembles Arnold's. A statue of Fonzie, with thumbs up and his eyes cast heavenward stands above Peter's altar, which resembles the desk in Fonzie's Men's Room office. Cleveland – who has recently converted and has renamed himself "The Reverend 'Sticks' Brown" – leads the congregation in a "hymn" which is in fact the Happy Days theme. Peter enters on a motorcycle and gives everyone a thumbs-up. He asks the congregation to rise, then to "Sit on it"! Peter is wearing a ceremonial robe, like that Robert Shuler guy, only instead of Christian symbols, the robe is decorated with Happy Days imagery. Peter gives a sermon based on another life lesson from an episode of "Happy Days". Members of the church are so overcome with emotion that they fall to their knees in praise of The Fonz. Lois is stunned to see that Peter has become a genuine spiritual leader. We see that Brian and Francis are not so thrilled with what is going on.

3/2 INT. GRIFFIN LIVING ROOM – LATER

Brian and Francis commiserate over the success of Peter's new religion. Brian says Peter is exploiting people's ignorance and ripping people off. Francis is more concerned that Peter is damning his soul for all time by praising a false god. Brian and Francis again clash over their religious differences. They admit that they'll never agree on that issue, but both are in agreement that something must be done to stop Peter. Lois sees that Garret has walked Meg home from CCD class. Garret is very polite as he meets the family, and Lois says he's welcome to come by and visit Meg any time. Garret says he will take Lois up on the invite, but that right now he is late for evening mass. Francis is impressed to hear that Garrett goes to church twice a day. Garret bids them good evening. Lois is impressed with his manners and happy that a boy is paying attention to Meg. Stewie is skeptical that anything will come of it, and jokes to Brian that Garret is just another gay priest in the making. Brian agrees, saying that poor Meg is setting herself up for yet another disappointment.

3/3 INT. THE CHURCH OF THE FONZ - A FEW DAYS LATER

Peter is conducting business and planning for the church, including a possible visit from Archbishop Potsie. Word of the church has spread and Peter is starting to reap the benefits of his success. He is wearing a suit and tie under his ceremonial Fonzie robe, and is driving a better car. Peter wears a Gold watch and has taken on the demeanor of an evangelist like Billy Graham or Jerry Falwell. Cleveland enters and tells Peter that they have a visitor. Peter grandly says that all are welcome at the church of the Fonz. The door opens and we see that the visitor is Garry Marshall, who has been contacted by Brian. Garry Marshall tells Peter that he's impressed and flattered by the work he has done, but the fact is that Peter had no right to use the Fonz or his likeness, since the Fonz was his own creation. Not wanting his character to be a cause for possible controversy, Garry Marshall politely asks Peter to shut down his church. Peter is outraged and tells Garry Marshall that there's no way he'll do that. When Garry persists, Peter does an impassioned speech about the devotion of his followers. During the speech, Peter snaps his fingers. Each time he does, Lois, Stewie and other characters enter, each dressed in a robe that matches Peter's, matching that inane scene from Happy Days when all the characters entered, dressed like Fonzie. With each entrance, we hear a studio audience go berserk with ridiculous appreciation. Finally, Garry Marshall snaps his fingers and a lawyer comes out of a locker in Peter's office. The studio audience goes "ooooh". Garry Marshall tells Peter he'll see him in court, and we hear a "Happy Days" musical transition.

3/ 4 INT. SUN PORCH - LATER THAT DAY

Garret has come to visit Meg and they are sitting together on the sun porch. He is very polite as he sits by her and quotes the Bible. Meg, now armed with a quote that she got from Francis, turns to Garret and casually quotes something from Proverbs. Garret gazes at Meg, then in an instant, he is overcome with lust. He plunges his hands into Meg's pants and jumps on top of her. Meg asks Garret what he's doing, and Garret tells Meg that she wants it, otherwise she wouldn't come onto him by quoting scripture. Garret starts at her again. Meg screams and Francis enters to ask what's going on. Before Meg can speak, Garret does an Eddie Haskell-like delivery of a cover story. He says they were acting out a Bible story. Francis falls for it, and Meg realizes no matter what she says to Francis, he will only believe Garret. Lois enters and asks if Garret would like to stay for dinner. Garret politely tells Lois that he has to leave, but adds pointedly to Meg that he'll be back.

3/ 5 INT. QUAHOG COUNTY COURTHOUSE – A FEW DAYS LATER

A hearing is being held at the courthouse seen in Episode One. Lois sits with Stewie, Chris and Meg. Garret comes up and says hello to Meg. Lois says, "Oh, Meg, there's your little friend from Bible class". Garret turns on the charm to Lois, who is more distracted by the hearing. Stewie gives Garret a look up and down as Garret tells Meg he'd like to come by later. Before Meg can resist, we see that Peter has to stand up and address the judge. Peter tells the judge that the idea for the Church of the Fonz came

to him as the result of a spiritual journey and that since it was his interpretation of Fonzie, it should belong to him. Peter's followers erupt with support for their leader, and the judge orders them to be quiet. Garry Marshall takes the stand and tells the judge that he thinks Peter's work is admirable, however, he says that Peter's church must be shut down since it was he, Garry Marshall who created the Fonz. As the crowd murmurs, Francis disrupts the proceedings by yelling to Brian that Fonzie was "created", just like the earth and man were created by God. The judge asks Garry Marshall if he can provide documentation for the exact date on which the Fonz was created. Garry Marshall admits that there could not have been an exact date, since the character of the Fonz evolved through a series of story meetings. Brian charges back at Francis, saying, "Ha! He evolved! Just like Man evolved from the ape". Francis tells Brian he'll burn in hell. The judge again restores order, and Peter says no one can own the Fonz because he is a God. In fact, says Peter, "He is my God". Garry Marshall calls his first witness, Mr. Henry Winkler. There is a mixture of awe and confusion as the man who portrayed the Fonz enters the courtroom. Peter and his followers are dumbstruck that they are witnessing a holy miracle, and even the judge is a little star-struck at meeting the real Fonzie. Henry Winkler tells the court that he is not the Fonz, that he's just an actor who played the Fonz. On top of that, he informs the court, he's a Jew. A low rumble of disappointment sweeps across the courtroom. The judge has heard enough and awards Peter's Church and religion to Garry Marshall.

3/ 5 INT. SUN PORCH – LATER THAT DAY

Meg cringes as she looks out the window and sees Garret approaching. She runs upstairs as the doorbell rings. Francis answers the door and greets Garret, who says he's here to read the Bible with Meg. Francis ushers Garret into the sun porch and tells him he'll get Meg. As Garret makes himself comfortable, Stewie enters. Garret says hello to Stewie and Stewie tells him to stuff it. To Garret's horror, Stewie speaks to him in tongues, like Linda Blair in the exorcist. Then he spits a torrent of pea soup into Garret's face. Stewie either kicks the shit out of Garret, or hits him over the head with a bat. Stewie calls Garret the worst kind of hypocrite there is, then dares Garret to stare into the face of pure evil. Staring into Stewie's eyes, Garret sees visions of hell, damnation and the Devil himself. Horrified, Garret runs from the house, screaming that the Beast lives in the Griffin dwelling. Francis, thinking that Garret is referring to Lois, can only agree.

3/6 INT. GRIFFIN LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

All is back to normal, and the Griffins are on the couch watching Access Hollywood. They are surprised to see that Garry Marshall has opened up his Church of the Fonz in Hollywood. The reporter also announces that John Travolta, Madonna and musician Cat Stevens have already joined the church. The reporter asks Garry Marshall if he really needs the money, and Garry Marshall says, "Are you kidding? Why do you think I did Murphy Brown?". Francis says he's had enough of this nonsense and that he's going to bed (His normal bedtime is seven PM). Peter asks Francis if he's angry with him for straying from Catholicism and creating his own religion. To Peter's surprise, Francis says there comes a time when a son must separate from his father and walk his own path,

even if that path will lead him straight to hell in a bucket. Francis says goodnight and exits. Lois tells Peter that he should be proud. She says she feels that Peter has been wronged by having his church taken from him after all his hard work. Peter is only upset that he truly found religion, and now he has lost it. Brian tells Peter that not everybody needs religion. He says that common sense, and ethics and human values existed before Jesus or Mohammed or Buddha, or even the Fonz. Brian reminds Peter that he has had a good life thus far in spite of the fact that he's had no real spiritual background. Lois agrees and tells Peter that even without all the ceremony and presentation of his church, Peter can still live his life according to the spirit of the Fonz. She says he's done a great thing in creating his own religion. Chris, in an odd moment of clarity, tells Peter that he has proven the theory of Evolution by evolving into a seeker from a clue-less, stagnant couch potato. Peter thanks Chris, but says he still feels like a failure. Lois tells Peter that if his search for the Fonz has changed even one person's thinking about religion, than he was a success. Peter says he appreciates what Lois is saying, but that he feels there's little chance of that happening.

3 / 6 INT. GUEST ROOM – MOMENTS LATER

In the quiet of the guest room, Francis bolts the door and looks around. He takes out a picture of the Fonz, and kneels before it. Clapping his hands softly as in the beginning of the "Happy Days" theme, and starts a prayer to his newfound Lord and Savior, the Lord God Fonzie.